Now, about the date of the next launching, I want to say that we have been working on the next launch even before the first launch took place and we want to incorporate any correction of the defects which might have developed. The time factor was that the ASLV-2 will be launched within a year of the launching of the first ASLV. We keep to that programme because...

SHRI M. A. BABY: Please do not link it up with any Assembly by-election.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Sir, I did not follow what he said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This has nothing to do with the ASLV launch. You can go ahead.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: I think, my hon. friend is thinking of political technology and not of real technology which we are talking about here. It is our schedule to launch the next vehicle within a year. We are fairly confident of doing it.

Mr. Sukul has asked about the improvements in technology. There are two or three important new technologies which were introduced in the ASLV. One of which was the booster, scrap-on booster. This technology had worked perfectly well. It worked well and it was with this that the vehicle went up. But what did not work was the one which was tested earlier. The second important technology was the closed loop system. It worked partially because it could fully come into play only with the second stage motor of the launch-vehicle. Unfortunately, the second stage did not take place. One part of it, what we call the inertial guidance system did work because the telemetric information came from it was received by our stations. Therefore, we know that that part, the inertial guidance system, which determines. which tells us where exactly the satellite is, where exactly the vehicle is, did work. The other part which guides and corrects any deviation in the route of the setellite did not work because the satellite did not go up. Another important technology was the construction of the launch vehicle itself. Hitherto, it was integrated horizontally. In this, it was integrated vertically. From the technological and engineering point of view, this is a new achievement for us. Therefore, all these systems including the telemetric system, the tracking system etc. worked very well indeed in this. But unfortunately because of this one defect, rest of the technology could not come into play. During the brief life of the satellite, the data received by us shows that the new systems had worked perfectly well, performed well, during the period in the way they were intended to perform.

Once again, I would like to say that if there is an impression outside, in the country, that we are depending upon others or we are borrowing technology from outside or we need such technology for development of rocketry as well as satellite technology, it is not true. We have always followed the indigenous, self-reliant, path in this and this is one of the reasons that we are going step by step, steadily but successfully.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY, THE 20TH APRIL 1987

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JAJOB): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing Monday, the 20th April, 1987 will consist of:--

1. Discussion on the working of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:—

(a) The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 1987.

(b) The Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill, 1987, as passed by Lok Sabha.

(c) The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1987, as passed by Lok Sabha.

(d) The Parsi Marriage and Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 1986.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is only a small amendment in this. The Short Duration Discussion on Defence deals which has been slated for today will come up for discussion on Monday. In view of the shifting of this discussion to Monday, we have allowed a large number of Special Mentions. Now, Mr. Balaram first because he gave notice three days back.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: (West Bengal): There is the Advisory Committee meeting at 4.00 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a decision which we took on the last occasion. Today we are going to meet at 4.00 p.m. and we will discuss.

Reference to the drought situation in Kerala

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the drought situation in Kerala. Sir, I am fully aware that drought is there not only in Kerala State but in other States also, like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karanataka and several other parts of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute before I leave. The House will adjourn as usual at 1.30 p.m. for lunch and meet again at 2.30 for the Private Members' Business.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri M. P. Kaushik) in the Chair]

SHRI N. E. BALARAM): Now the situation in Kerala is very acute. Even the problem of drinking water has been acute in several villages. People are not able to get drinking water.

At this stage, I would like to remind that in 1983 there was a drought situation in Kerala which has already done enough damage to our economy. Again a serious drought situation has developed in Kerala. According to the report submitted by the Chief Minister of Kerala, almost all the agricultural cultivation has been severely affected. We have got a very good cultivation of arecanut but now almost 80 per cent of the arecanut cultivation has been completely destroyed. It is reported that this drought is slowly affecting the rubber cultivation and thus, a serious situation is going to be there. I am told that a Central Government team has already visited the State. They have studied the situation and submitted the report to the Central Government. But until and unless the Central Government comes to the help of the State Government immediately, it will be difficult to cope with the situation. The Kerala Chief Minister has already approached the Central Government for giving some immediate relief. An SOS has been sent. The Central Government should immediately give relief to the extent of at least Rs. 25 crores. The loss so far estimated comes to more than Rs. 1000 crores. It will take some time to improve the situation there, but meanwhile I request the Central Government to immediately grant the money as demanded by the Chief Minister. Otherwise, the situation cannot be improved. We are facing a very serious problem.

SHRI K. MOHANAN (Kerala): The only Minister who is present here is the Minister from our State. I will request him not to take it as a political issue and convey it to the Prime Minister earnestly.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Immediate relief will change the situation that is prevailing at present.